Prelude to Ivan's War #2 April 20, 2021

The Bad Bug Conspiracy Part 1

The people in Ultraverse congress debate over trivial matters. One of the people said, "We need to place sanctions on these Bad Bugs before they cause more damage." Another congress member said, "We can't place sanctions on them. It's not their fault that they come from a bad universe and want to get into better universes." Another member said, "Bad Bugs have provided great services to us for years. Some of the members of this congress are Bad Bugs." Bad Bug members of congress are in the seats as well as members from several different species from the different universes of the Ultraverse. The president of congress said, "Bad Bugs have been expanding and contaminating different universes and they are invading and infringing on rights and freedoms of several citizens. We must place sanctions on them." Congress becomes divided where almost no one votes to impose sanctions and the president does. The president said, "I guess this settles this then. Starting tomorrow, we will be arresting Bad Bugs we see out on the streets."

Innocent Bad Bugs get arrested for no reason at all. Ultraverse police resort to brutality to arrest the Bad Bugs. In the main Bad Bug home world, the Bad Bug Magister watches TV reports from the Ultraverse on the Bad Bug situation. The Magister said, "We Bad Bugs deserve a better home than this. It is wrong that we were placed here. We were condemned to this place centuries ago by the people from the Ultraverse. I think it is time we give those Ultraverse people what they deserve."

Everything is business as usual in congress except there aren't any Bad Bugs in the congress and the Bad Bugs are in prison instead. A flying saucer hovers over congress and Bad Bug soldiers are dispensed from it. They attack congress and they kidnap the president. Congress security comes to fight the Bad Bugs but the Bad Bugs use their high-tech weaponry and they defeat the security forces. They take the political prisoners to the flying saucer.

In a large auditorium in the Ultraverse Monastery, Grand Master Feistar stands at the front while all the monks pile in and get to seats. Keith and Roswell sit next to each other. Keith said, "Do you know what this is about?" Roswell said, "We usually get one of these when we monks are needed for some mission that determines the fate of a universe. Considering how many universes there are in all, this happens at least once a week." Grand Master Feistar said, "The lead governing body of the Ultraverse,

Congress has been dissolved. The building was destroyed this morning by Bad Bug radicals and the president of the Ultraverse is among the political prisoners that were captured during the raid. Average security people cannot combat this threat so we need the monks to fight against the Bad Bugs. The Ultraverse Monks have been around long before the Ultraverse had a congress. It is written in congress' constitution that in the event that congress gets destroyed or becomes inoperative, the Ultraverse Monks must govern the Ultraverse making the Grand Master the president of the Ultraverse. Effective right now, I, Grand Master Feistar of the Ultraverse monks is now the president of the Ultraverse. I have all the rights and responsibilities of the president. These Bad Bugs have been taking over several different worlds in several of the universes. These Bad Bugs are good at hiding and stowing away on transports. They have been sucking the finance and wealth of people of the different universes by destroying their property and taking over banks. I declare as president of the Ultraverse that the Ultraverse is officially at war with the Bad Bugs. I am the commander and chief and you monks are my soldiers. Many of you will die trying to defend the Ultraverse but it is for a good cause."

Keith goes to the library and meets Roswell at the counter. Keith said, "Well, I am getting deployed." Roswell said, "I hope it's somewhere nice." Keith said, "It is some desert scrapyard that's been abandon for millennia. I've been trying to integrate new technology with the Ultraverse Monks. Here's the first step." Keith hands Roswell a small, long and thin cylinder with blinking lights and a screen. Keith said, "This is a tracking device." Keith shows his half to Roswell. Keith said, "You can use this technology to locate me. I can also use it to locate you if any of us get lost in a battle. I haven't been with you monks for very long and I am already being placed in a war." Roswell said, "I've served in some odd conflicts in the past. It took many years way more than I can count before I was placed in life-or-death situations. I'm sure you can make it out. You have a much greater degree of intellect than the people you will be fighting against."

Keith is dispatched to a battleground with a bunch of other monks. There is a master monk that serves as the commander of the platoon. Keith and all the other monks have their swords drawn. They walk along the dusty and dirty sand where remains of all kinds of weird creatures rest. One monk steps on the remains of some this and he cuts up the remains with his sword. There is also a lot of debris from an abandoned excavation site. There is a large drill that can be driven into the ground. The master said, "They must be out here somewhere." A bomb in the sand detonates and explodes. Bad Bug soldiers jump out from behind rocks and pieces of debris. The monks go to fight the Bad Bugs. The Bad Bugs have armor that shoots electrical currants through veins. One of the monks hits the Bad Bug with his sword and he gets zapped. More of the monks get zapped through their swords by the Bad Bugs. One of

the monks runs next to Keith and he said, “What are we going to do? You have more brains than all these other monks.” Keith sees the monks are getting zapped through their swords. He sees the monk master tries fighting the Bad Bugs but even he gets zapped and defeated. Keith said, “Our swords are made out of metal. We need something to insulate the handle.”

Keith and that other monk go looking through debris. Keith finds a large black plastic cloth. Keith wraps the black plastic cloth around his sword handle. Keith said, “Get some of this cloth on your sword handle.” The other monk follows. Keith and the other monk go to fight the Bad Bugs. Keith slashes one down and then he slashes down another one. The electrifying attacks are useless against Keith and the other monk. The other monk slashes down a Bad Bug and then more Bad Bugs crowd around him and beat him down. Keith slashes one of the Bad Bugs off but more show up and they beat down Keith.

Keith and the other monk appear in a pitch-black prison section and they are tied up to each other with chains. The other monk said, “How do you suppose we get out of these chains?” Keith said, “There is always something that could be used…” They manage to move around the floor and they find a light switch that activates the fixtures. Keith flicks the switch with his nose and the fixture turns on. Keith said, “These Bad Bugs messed up. They gave us gold chains. They look precious and valuable but they are not that secure.” Keith brings the chains to the light fixture and the heat melts the gold chains. Keith and the other monk are free. Keith said, “We need to find our swords and get out of this place.” Keith and the other monk try to find a way out. The other monk said, “I’m Jacob by the way.” Keith said, “I’m Keith.” Jacob said, “I heard of you before. You are that new monk that I hear is highly gifted.” Keith said, “Depends on what you mean by, ‘gifted.’”

Keith and Jacob come across prison cells in the ancient looking prison and they see people from their platoon locked up in the prisons. Jacob said, “How are we going to free them?” Keith sees a treasure chest on a ledge. Keith grabs it and he sees it is made out of gold. Keith said, “These things seem to make everything out of gold.” Keith holds it up to a light fixture and it is melted and the contents are Keith’s gadgets. Keith grabs his harpoon gun. Keith said, “Take what you want. We are going to need it to get out of this place.” Jacob grabs some random gadgets. Bad Bug guards walk to where Keith and Jacob are. The guard said, “They got free!” Keith fires the harpoon gun at one of them as he is charging his electric veins. The harpoon sticks to his veins and Keith whips the Bad Bug into another Bad Bug and causes an explosion. Jacob goes to the cell and he messes with the gadgets trying to break down the bars. Jacob finds a fusion cutter and he tries using it and it does nothing. Jacob said, “How do I

work this thing?" Keith said, "Let me…" Keith throws the harpoon to Jacob and Jacob throws the fusion cutter to Keith. Keith activates the fusion cutter and he cuts through the cells. Jacob attempts to do what Keith did to the Bad Bugs but is having trouble figuring out how to work the harpoon. More Bad Bugs scurry in and they outnumber Keith, Jacob and the free monks. The master monk said, "We could try hand-in-hand combat." Keith said, "They have electric veins. We will get electrocuted if we try that." The master monk said, "All we can do now is surrender."

Keith and Jacob are placed with the rest of the monks in a different prison cell. A Bad Bug General looks over the prisoners with a lower ranked Bad Bug. The lower ranked Bad Bug said, "Are we going to kill them? They do pose quite a threat to us. Especially that orange haired one." The General said, "We are not going to kill them. You see, these Ultraverse monks value life. I think we can make a bargain with what we have."

Grand Master Feistar is in a dark room where monks watch over everything with a fully lit 3D map of the Ultraverse. Feistar said, "We have reports of losses in this section and that section. We have not heard anything back from that platoon I sent our new gifted monk to. I hope they are doing fine." All the monks in the room and Feistar have their attention turned to a screen and the Bad Bug General appears on the screen. The Bad Bug General said, "Grand Master Feistar I presume." Feistar said, "It's technically President Feistar now actually because you kidnapped our real president." The General said, "I have a deal to make with you. You see this…" The General shows he is holding a lot of monks including Keith as prisoners. The General said, "I understand you value the lives of all these monks. I know you especially value the orange haired one. I thought we can make a deal. I will return all these prisoners to you if you agree to end the war now with us as the victors. You will have to sign this document I am faxing to you right now." The fax machine is activated and it prints a document that is a declaration to end the war. Feistar looks over it and it pretty much says that the Bad Bugs will rule the Ultraverse as well as all the universes of the Ultraverse if Feistar signs the declaration. Feistar said, "I will never sign this. I will rather get all my bones crushed and sculpted into a ball and bowled into pins at an alley than sign this insidious document." The General said, "Have it your way. We are executing all the prisoners here. We will even execute your favorite orange haired one."

More monks gather around in the dark map room and Feistar said, "We have a crisis on our hands. The Bad Bugs have some of our greatest men and they will not give them back to us unless I sign over control of the entire Ultraverse and all the universes. I cannot sign such a document. I need a new strike team to go to where the last strike team went and bail them out. If we had better technology, we could defeat

the Bad Bugs and have them beg at our knees." Roswell is present and he looks at the tracking device Keith gave him. Roswell said, "I know exactly where Keith is." Everyone turns their attention to Roswell. Roswell said, "It looks like most of the prisons are underground where the battlefield was supposed to be. If there is a way we can breach the underground, we can bumrush the place and give that General a taste of his own medicine." Feistar said, "We don't have much other options and it looks like no one else has a better idea. I guess we just have to go with Roswell's idea on this one. I will place the next greatest monk that is not me in charge of this one."

Master Augi leads a team of monks into that same desert. They walk past debris and remains from destroyed Bad Bugs. Augi walks next to Roswell. Augi said, "You said Keith's signal was coming from the ground?" Roswell said, "It all appears to be under the ground." Augi said, "How could there be anything under this large body of sand?" Augi spots the driller and Augi said, "That's it. This must have been an excavation site that has been abandon for a millennia. I wonder if that drill still works."

Keith and Jacob sit in the darkness with all the other monks in prison. Jacob said, "I guess this is where our lives end. We end our lives by fighting a bunch of stupid bugs in a stupid tomb." Keith said, "I thought I would have a meaningful career at being a monk." The prison starts to rumble. The drill drills into the prison and the bars break from the debris of the crumbling prison. Roswell looks out the drill and he said, "Technology is a charm." Roswell shows the tracking device. Keith looks at Jacob and said, "I told you this is why new technology is the best." Bad Bug guards run out with their electric veins. All the imprisoned monks escape down a tunnel that was drilled by the drill. The Bad Bug guards fire shockwaves at the drill. Roswell drives the drill into the Bad Bugs and they get crunched and broken in the drill. Roswell rolls down all the main control rooms in the prison and destroys them all. The drill is stopped by the Bad Bug General and he is wearing a heavy metal armor suit. He lifts the drill and he begins breaking it. Augi with Keith and Jacob confront the General. The General throws the drill away. The General said, "It looks like you came back for a second helping of prison. Only you are not going to get prison. Instead you are going to get pain and suffering." The General extends his long arms into electric swords. Keith sees his sword has the insolation on it. Keith blocks the sword attacks and gets into a duel with the General. The General said, "You are quite a resourceful little monk. You should come work for me. We fully embrace new technology and concepts." Keith said, "Never!" They keep dueling. The General swings upwards and Keith blocks it and the General swings downwards and Keith jumps over the swords and he slashes the General in the head. The helmet of the armor breaks off. The General swings his swords again and Roswell drives the partially broken drill into the General and the General quickly turns around to stop the drill. He struggles to keep it stopped. Roswell said, "Ancient drill technology. They don't build it like they used to." Keith slashes his

sword at the General's head and he gets injured and loses his grip and Roswell drives the drill over the General and the General is crushed and destroyed. The entire prison section is destroyed and Keith, Augi, Jacob, and all the other monks watch from the distance.

Roswell is in the infirmary being treated for injuries while Keith and Jacob are sharing a quarantine room. Feistar visits the quarantine room and he talks through the speaker system in the glass. Feistar said, "I am proud of you guys. You have destroyed one of their top generals. We need to keep you in quarantine in case they placed something on you or in you. Bad Bugs are known to be tricky in that way. Great job though." Feistar leaves and a bald man with a white moustache enters. He said, "It is an honor to meet you, Keith. I have been watching you for a long time." Keith said, "Who are you?" The man said, "I am Mystika. I created your universe. My daughter is also a monk." His daughter shows up dressed in a clean room suit and she enters the quarantine cell and she checks diagnostic readings. Mystika said, "Safron is my daughter and she thinks highly of you, Keith." Safron said, "My father made me join the monks. He said it was to serve some 'higher purpose' or something. Now that you are here, I think we may have a new age on our hands. I am actually interested in monk work for once." Mystika said, "I have some tasks for you in the future Keith. I want us to stay in touch."